

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 47 and add Claim 56 to read as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Amended) A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side,

a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any lens units of said zoom lens, said first lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element; and

a second lens unit of positive refractive power, said second lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element,

wherein the separation between said first lens unit and said second lens unit is varied during zooming.

35-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Amended) A zoom lens according to Claim 34, wherein said first lens unit consists of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element of bi-

convex form, two negative lens elements of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and a positive lens element of meniscus form convex toward the object side.

39. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 34, wherein said second lens unit has an aspherical surface closest to the object side.

40. (Previously Amended) A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side,

a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any lens units of said zoom lens, said first lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a negative lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element, and

a second lens unit of positive refractive power, said second lens unit having a positive lens element located closest to the object side and consisting of two positive lens elements and a negative lens element,

wherein the separation between said first lens unit and said second lens unit is varied during zooming, and

wherein the movement locus of said first lens unit during zooming from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end includes a part which is movement to the object side.

41. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 40, wherein said first lens unit consists of, in order from the object side to the image side, two negative lens elements of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens element of meniscus form convex toward the object side.

42. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 40, wherein said second lens unit consists of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element and a positive lens element.

43. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 40, wherein said second lens unit has an aspherical surface closest to the object side.

44-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Amended) A camera comprising:  
a zoom lens;  
an image pickup element provided on an image plane of said zoom lens; and  
a parallel plate provided between said zoom lens and said image pickup element,  
wherein said zoom lens comprises, in order from an object side to an image side,  
(1) a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any lens units of the zoom lens, said first lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, a negative lens element, and a positive lens element, and (2) a second lens unit of positive refractive power, said second lens unit consisting of three positive lens elements and a negative lens element, wherein the separation between said first lens unit and said second lens unit is varied during zooming.

47. (Currently Amended) A camera comprising:  
a zoom lens

an image pickup element provided on an image plane of said zoom lens; and  
a parallel plate provided between said zoom lens and said image pickup element,  
wherein said zoom lens comprises, in order from an object side to an image side,  
(1) a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any lens  
units of said zoom lens, said first lens unit comprising four lens elements, and (2) a second lens  
unit of positive refractive power, said second lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side  
to the image side, a positive lens element, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, and a  
positive lens element, wherein the separation between said first lens unit and said second lens  
unit is varied during zooming.

48. (Previously Added) A camera comprising:

a zoom lens according to Claim 34; and

an image pickup element provided on an image plane of said zoom lens.

49. (Previously Added) A camera comprising:

a zoom lens according to Claim 40; and

an image pickup element provided on an image plane of said zoom lens.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 40, further comprising  
an aperture stop disposed between said first lens unit and said second lens unit,

wherein said aperture stop moves independently of said first lens unit and said second lens unit during zooming.

52. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 40, wherein during zooming from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end, said first lens unit and said second lens unit move toward the object side.

53. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 40, wherein during zooming from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end, said first lens unit and said second lens unit move toward the object side while reducing the separation between said first lens unit and said second lens unit.

54. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 40, wherein said first lens unit moves during focusing.

55. (Previously Added) A zoom lens according to Claim 40, wherein said negative lens element of said second lens unit is a lens element of meniscus form concave toward the image side.

56. (New) A zoom lens according to Claim 47, wherein said first lens unit consists of four lens elements.